Achievements in industrial sector

2999. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what arc the achievements of Government in the industrial sector;

(b) whehter Government have achieved industrial growth it expected during the year;

(c) which are the majore sectors of industry where decline it growth has been recorded; and

(d) what are the major reasons for decline in the industrial growth?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) As per Index of Industrial Production, released by Central Statistical Organisation, the industrial growth during the April—February, 1998-99 is 3.9% as compared to 4.9% during April—February, 1997-98. The actual growth rate of industrial production during April—February 1998-99 is close to the assessment made by the Government regarding the expected industrial growth for the year 1998-99.

(c) An analysis of the performance as per the Index of Industrial Production shows that during April—February, 1998-99, positive growth rates have been achieved in 11 out of the total 17 two digit industry groups. The production has been negative in respect of Cotton Textiles (-1.9%), manufacture of Jute & other vegetable fibre Textiles, except cotton (-5.4%), Textile Products, including Wearing Apparel (-3.3%), Wood & Wood Products (-4.8%), basic Metals & Alloy Industries (-3.2%), Machinery & Equipment other than Transport Equipment (-1.2%).

(d) The slow down in industrial growth can be attributed to both the domestic and external factors.

—Domestic factors include weak demand on account of slow down in general investment mainly due to sluggish capital market conditions.

—On the external side, the world export growth has been sluggish which has affected India's export growth. As production for export is a sizeable portion of industrial output, it has affected industrial production.

—Indian corporates have also been affected by competition from cheap imports, owing to devaluation of currencies in East Asia and Brazil.

Implementation of Recommendations of Abid Hussain Committee

3000. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the major recommendations of Abid Hussain Committee on small trade sector implemented so far;

(b) how many recommendations are yet to be implemented;

(c) whether Government proposes to dereserve more items in the small scale industry sector; and

(d) if so, the details of these steps and reasons for dereserving these items?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed *(See* below)

(c) and (d) Reservation and Dereservation of items for manufacture in Small Scale Sector is a continuous process being done on the basis of the Advisory Committee on Reservation constituted under IDR Act, 1951.